

REMARKS

Claims 1-52 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 1-52 are cancelled. New claims 53-104 are added. As a result, claims 53-104 are pending for examination with claims 53, 68, 73, 76, 88, and 100 being independent claims. No new matter is added.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC §103 are Overcome

Claims 1-19, 21-23, 25-30, 32, and 40-52 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Caspari et al. (US Patent No. 4,923,461) in view of Tiefenbrun et al. (US Patent No. 6,331,182). Applicant respectfully submits that these rejections are improper. The Office Action admits that Caspari does not disclose all of the features of the rejected claims, but uses the disclosure of Tiefenbrun to satisfy these deficiencies. Without acceding to the propriety of the combination, Applicant respectfully points out that Tiefenbrun is not prior art to the present application. Tiefenbrun was filed on December 13, 1999. The present application is a continuation application of application no. 09/368,273, filed August 3, 1999 and also claims priority to applications 60/098,152 and 60/118,039 filed August 27, 1998 and February 1, 1999, respectively. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's findings that claims 24, 31, and 32-39 are allowed and that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has not rewritten claim 20, but rather has cancelled it in favor of newly presented claims. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled allowed claims 24, 31, and 32-39 in favor of newly presented claims.

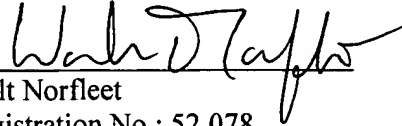
III. New claims 53-104

Applicant respectfully submits new claim 53-104, which overcome the rejections in the Office Action at least for the above described reasons. Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. D0188.70162US01 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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